



APRIL 2014 NEWSPAPER



BOOK REVIEWS

Understanding Transgender Diversity: A Sensible Explanation of Sexual and Gender Identities by Claire Ruth Winters. 2010.

This well written, perfectly organized, and easily comprehensible book may be the best I’ve read in months. Though the text is primarily focused on issues facing trans people, it is also a manual for the general understanding of human diversity and personal individuality as well.

Winter’s witty and humorous personality shines through these pages as she educates and informs us of many serious issues facing our society as a whole and especially the transgender community.

This outstanding work is literally a reference manual for those considering a transition, who are in transition, or who would simply like to dispel their ignorance of what being transgendered is and the struggles caused by the fear and ignorance experienced by the amazing transgendered people of the world.

I loved this book for the wisdom it contains, the truths, the easily accessed informational format and the fact that it was a pleasure to read, unlike many nonfiction books I’ve encountered, thanks to Winter’s grade A personality and charm. The glossary is definitely an added bonus.

William, Pennsylvania

Against Equality: Prisons Will Not Protect You edited by Ryan Conrad. 2012. AK Press.

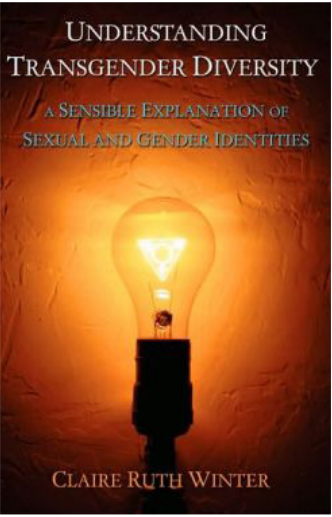
The book *Against Equality: Prisons Will Not Protect You* was sent to me by the organization Against Equality. First, let me say, there is a lot of information in this small book, 114 pgs. I spent a lot of time on the phone talking about it with my brother, browsing the internet, and downloading more information.

Next, let me say I recommend it be read by every member of the Black & Pink Family. My reasons are very simple. First, it’s a good book. Second, it’s informative to the goals of the Black & Pink Family. Third, it puts your goals in line with the Black & Pink Family. Fourth, it gives you a voice, so when asked why we are a part of Black & Pink, we give informative, educated answers, and it lets people know this is a real issue and we’re not just complaining to complain.

Lastly, our esteemed Jason has a chapter all to his own. I actually got to know him a little better. Either way, family, Billy recommends this book highly!

Their website is www.againstequality.org , where they write: “Against Equality is an online archive, publishing, and arts collective focused on critiquing mainstream gay and lesbian politics. As queer thinkers, writers and artists, we are committed to dislodging the centrality of equality rhetoric and challenging the demand for inclusion in the institution of marriage, the US military, and the prison industrial complex via hate crimes legislation. We want to reinvigorate the queer political imagination with fantastic possibility!”

People in prison can receive a free copy of their materials, including

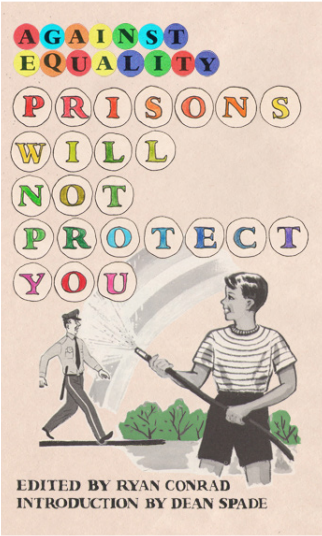


this book *Against Equality: Prisons Will Not Protect You*, along with their other titles *Against Equality: Don’t Ask to Fight Their Wars*, *Against Equality: Queer Critiques of Gay Marriage*, and the soon to be available anthology of all three of these books, *Against Equality: Queer Revolution, Not Mere Inclusion*.

Billy, Texas

(Editor’s Note: Their website says they are having trouble keeping up with demand, and may not be able to fill orders from Texas, but can do the other 49 states.)

Write for your free copy at:
LGBT Books to Prisoners Project
c/o Rainbow Book Cooperative
426 W. Gilman Street
Madison, WI 53703



¡EL PERIÓDICO DE BLACK AND PINK AHORA DISPONIBLE EN ESPAÑOL! / BLACK AND PINK NEWSPAPER NOW AVAILABLE IN SPANISH!

La policia, los tribunales, y el sistema de prisiones en los Estados Unidos acosa a gente de color, particularmente a gente negra, latin@, arabe, o indigena. Casi 1 al 3 de los prisioneros hablan español como lengua materna. Queremos que nuestro periódico sea lo más disponible posible para cualquiera persona quien quiera leerlo. Somos una familia más fuerte cuando más gente nos pueden entender.

The US police, court, and prison system targets people of color, particularly Black, Latin@, Arab, and Indigenous/American Indian people. Nearly 1 in 3 prisoners’ first language is Spanish. We want our newspaper to be as available as possible to everyone who wants to read it. We are a stronger family when more people can understand us.

Por favor, avisen a todos sus amigos lesbiana, gay, bisexual, transgenero, o kuir/queer quisieran recibir un periódico en espanol. Pueden escribir a:
Black and Pink - Spanish Newspaper
614 Columbia Rd.
Dorchester, MA 02125

Please tell all your Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and/or Queer friends who would like a newspaper in Spanish to write to:
Black and Pink - Spanish Newspaper
614 Columbia Rd.
Dorchester, MA 02125

SEND US YOUR HEADER ART!

Black and Pink wants to use your art as a newspaper header! We’ll feature a different artist each month! Send us a drawing that says, “Black & Pink” or “Black and Pink.”

Images should be no bigger than 10 inches in length and 3.5 inches in height. Smaller or larger images may be resized to fit.

This month’s header is by Whyte Coco in Indiana!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We have increased the number of people processing mail. We are excited that we are able to get to mail much faster than before, but we are still quite a few months behind. We are getting to mail from December and January right now. Also, PLEASE, remember to include the “topic tag” on your envelope, especially if it is FEEDBACK or NEWSPAPER SUBMISSION.

Please remember that we cannot guarantee that we will get your picture back to you. We are doing our best, but do not always have the address on the picture and things get mixed up. REMEMBER TO PUT YOUR NAME, NUMBER, AND ADDRESS on the back of your picture if you want it back

It has come to our attention that some people on the outside were using our database to intimidate or extort some incarcerated members of Black and Pink. We have made some significant changes to our website to increase security. If you are receiving threatening letters from people on the outside, please send us a copy so we can follow up on it. The point of Black and Pink is to create more community and solidarity, not get you harassed by anyone, we take harm against our family VERY seriously

Black and Pink
614 Columbia Rd
Dorchester, MA 02125

Return Service Requested

PRESORTED STD
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BOSTON, MA
PERMIT NO. 1475

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Statement of Purpose
Black & Pink is an open family of LGBTQ
prisoners and “free world” allies who support
each other. Our work toward the abolition
of the prison industrial complex is rooted
in the experience of currently and formerly
incarcerated people. We are outraged by
the specific violence of the prison industrial
complex against LGBTQ people, and respond
through advocacy, education, direct service,
and organizing.

Black & Pink is proudly a family of people of all
races.

About this Newspaper
Since 2007, Black & Pink free world volunteers
have pulled together a monthly newspaper
primarily composed of material written by our
family’s incarcerated members. In response to
letters we receive, more prisoners receive the
newspaper each issue!

This month, the newspaper is being sent to:
4,789 prisoners!

Disclaimer:
Please note that the ideas and opinions
expressed in the Black & Pink Newspaper are
solely those of the authors and artists and do
not necessarily reflect the views of Black &
Pink. Black & Pink makes no representations
as to the accuracy of any statements made
in the Newspaper, including but not limited to
legal and medical information. Authors and
artists bear sole responsibility for their work.
Everything published in the Newspaper is also
on the internet—it can be seen by anyone with
a computer. By sending a letter to “Newspaper
Submissions,” you are agreeing to have your
piece in the Newspaper and on the internet.
For this reason, we only publish First Names
and State Location to respect people’s privacy.
Pieces may be edited to fit our anti-oppression
values and based on our Editing Guidelines.

Call for Submissions to HOT PINK!

Seeking erotic short stories and poems
by Black & Pink incarcerated and free-
world family members for a new ‘zine.
Please send submissions to our Black
& Pink - HOT PINK. This is a voluntary
project, and no money will be offered
for submissions, but you might get the
chance to share your spicy story with
many others! To subscribe to receive
erotica, write to our address, Black &
Pink - GENERAL.

A MESSAGE FROM JASON

Dear friends,
I hope this note finds you as well as possible.
2014 has been a very exciting and full time for Black
and Pink members outside as well as inside. We are
seeing growth at a rate we have never seen before. We
are welcoming new “free world” family members all
the time. We are excited to create a good structure that
reflects good examples of shared leadership between
incarcerated and “free world” family members. I am
feeling very thankful for all of the wisdom shared by
Black and Pink members.

I have been thinking a lot about what we mean
by “abolitionist reforms”. When we say we work
on “abolitionist reforms” we mean we are fighting
to change policies, challenge laws, or in some way
change the current system of the prison industrial
complex in a way that reduces suffering but does not
create something new we will need to abolish later. For
instance, we might work to make it so that all people
in a prison can get access to the “transgender canteen”
regardless of their gender identity, because this gives
more power and autonomy to prisoners. We would
not, however, advocate to build more prisons that are
supposedly “safe” for LGBTQ prisoners.

Right now in Massachusetts Black and Pink
“free world” members are working with a coalition to
stop the shackling of pregnant prisoners. In the past the
legislation that would have stopped the use of shackles
on pregnant prisoners included funding to build a
women’s jail. The bill did not actually use the term
jail, rather calling it a treatment facility for women, but
that’s just a jail with a different name. We always need
to be cautious that we do not get ourselves wrapped
up in a reform effort that could actually cause more
harm. A formerly incarcerated member of Black and
Pink recently spoke on a panel at Harvard University
Law School and one of the points from the panel was
a reminder that more often than not, when we try to
get involved supporting prisoners, we will cause more
harm. Sometimes this looks like disciplinary reports,
guard harassment, or solitary confinement for individual
prisoners we advocate for. Other times this looks like
new policies that claim to be for protection but end up
being used against the people it is supposed to protect,
like the Prison Rape Elimination Act.

Often the line between “abolitionist reforms”
and harmful reforms is not very clear; there can be a
whole lot of grey area. The anti-shackling legislation
in Massachusetts will not only stop shackling
prisoners during childbirth, it also will make jails and
prisons provide better care for pregnant prisoners.
Unfortunately some of the care listed in the legislation
about “postpartum depression” can possibly lead to
prisoners being placed in solitary confinement. There
is also some anxiety that the bill does not go far enough
and that if we pass this bill we will not actually see
the changes we need and instead the legislature will
get to pat themselves on the back for “helping women”
without actually creating significant changes for
pregnant prisoners. Being part of legislative reform
efforts is a great reminder that the real power belongs
with the people, and that legislators are really only
concerned about getting reelected.

One of the things that have come up for me
while working on the anti-shackling legislation is a big
question about how we, as abolitionists, can be on the
offensive rather than always reacting. How do we go
about creating an effective plan to diminish the power
of the prison industrial complex? The “free world”
leadership circle is currently working on a draft proposal
for a strategy. In the United States abolitionists have
been organizing under the “attrition” model for a few
decades. Under this model our efforts are supposed to
be focused on moratorium, stopping the construction of
any new prison beds (no matter what they are called);
decarceration, getting people out of prison with efforts
like compassionate release, pardons, changing laws
and getting retroactive release (like decriminalizaton
of drugs), etc.; and excarceration, not allowing the
state to put people in prison, creating alternatives to
incarceration, and repealing laws. As Black and Pink
we need to figure out what we imagine our strategy to
be and how we intend on winning. We organize towards
abolition knowing that once there were no prisons, that
day will come again.

In loving solidarity,
Jason

BLACK & PINK NEWSPAPER PRODUCTION GUIDELINES

Hi Family,
Over the years, our Newspaper has changed and grown!
Those of us who help create the Newspaper each month
have written down guidelines for how we create the
Newspaper, and we want to share this with you and
hear your thoughts.

Statement of Purpose for Newspaper:

- We want to:
- Publish a monthly Newspaper for people in prison
to support our family and promote our Purpose and
Analysis
 - Help people feel cared for and not forgotten, by
including content that makes people feel loved.
 - Decrease targeting of LGBTQ people in prison, by
showing guards and other people in prison that they
get mail monthly and are part of a community.
 - Promote resistance and survival, with stories of
resistance, organizing, advocacy, and survival, in
and out of prison.
 - Promote politics of queer liberation and prison
abolition, by publishing our analysis, and
submissions that support and expand our analysis.
 - Allow expression of people’s experiences, by
including stories, articles, art, poems.
 - Build community around queerness and prison
abolition, by having people respond to what they
read, using Newspaper to let people know about
events/opportunities, and including news.

Our Guidelines

We would prefer to make edits to a piece and then
send it back to the author for approval of our edits
before publishing. However, this would create a time
delay, increased work, and lost pieces due to lost mail,
making it more difficult to publish monthly. Instead,
we try to make minimal changes to submissions before
publishing. We don’t publish all pieces, sometimes
because of space, sometimes because a piece may not
be a good fit. Whoever types up a piece may do editing
within our guidelines, and the Newspaper Committee
and Leadership Circle may continue editing.

Values/Politics Edits: We may change some words or
remove some sentences that don’t fit our anti-oppression
values, without changing the author’s main points. We
may make an “Editor’s Note” to add information or a
point of view.

Length: For each piece we like about 500 words
or less, typed or handwritten. We can sometimes put
longer pieces in two newspapers. We may use sections
of a piece if it’s too long.

Content from Inside/Outside: Submissions from
people in prison should be at least 50% of the
Newspaper. Other content may be B&P organization
reports and updates, Free World articles and news.

Spelling/Grammar/Structure: We often correct
spelling, and change some grammar while trying to
leave the author’s voice intact. We may change the
structure of a piece to make it easier to read.

All volunteer: We don’t pay for submissions, though
we do not charge money for sending the Newspaper
to people in prison. Free World volunteers are not paid
for work on the Newspaper. The printing and postage is
funded through grants and individual donations.

Direct responses: People love responding directly to
other Newspaper contributors. It is a nice way to build
the family, but there are so many of us we all can’t do it,
and it risks more Newspaper rejections for “inmate-to-
inmate communication.” We ask that authors address
the whole family, rather than individuals. We may edit
a piece to be a response to the content of another piece,
rather than to one individual.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

Dear Black & Pink,

I have enjoyed reading the Newspaper. I have learned about history and Black & Pink’s philosophical connection to certain traditions. I may not agree with the politics or religions of all other oppressed and unfairly treated persons, but I believe that a united front is required. I am the kind of person that looks for similarities in people so that I may share a connection with them- I choose to “opt them in,” as opposed to segregating others by ethnicity, nationality, religion, sexual identity, etc to “opt them out” of my circle, so to say.

“Resistance” in regards to the prison system and the Government that supports it is simple. The Government is a Corporate entity. A Corporate Entity is an imaginary “person” created so that some people or a group can escape individual responsibility for the harm they create in the pursuit of profit. In the United States, corporations are Capitalist in nature. They rely on their money, property and control of these assets as their power base. The Prison Industrial Complex (PIC) is an arm of the Government which is self-sustaining. On a large scale it involves the mainstream media, which controls what crimes we hear about. The Politicians create the “hard lines” that target these over-sensationalized and manipulated crime waves to get elected and then keep them in jobs to protect the “common man” from the “horrible criminal.” The judges that show compassion are labeled as weak on crime, “unAmerican,” and shouted down when they explain why they gave a kid a break, only to be replaced by a judge that will keep the prison full, no matter what the truth of the situation tends to be.

Who is going to be swept up in these crackdowns? History tells us that those that are the least able to protect themselves are the targets of the greatest oppression. Politicians want results to show their voters so that they can keep their nice job.

Do you ever see police stopping and frisking white middle class teenagers in the suburbs? No, they go to the inner city and the poor areas, determine them to be high crime areas, and use that as an excuse to violate search and seizure protections guaranteed to citizens in the Constitution. Why don’t they do it in Suburbia, is there less crime there? Statistics tell us that the crimes committed by whites and by Blacks and other racial minorities are about the same per population. As a white male who grew up in a suburban setting, I can attest that drug use and availability was as high or higher than that of my friends in the city schools. They would come to me to get stuff, because the kids at my school all had money, so the drugs went to where the money was.

But what cop is going to take the chance of pulling over a State Representative’s kid, or a lawyer’s kid, for a “your tail light is out can I pat you down” stop? No, they go to the city and they pick people, usually people of color at random. Hundreds upon hundreds are stopped. The officer asks “Who are you? Let me see some ID. Can I pat you down for my safety?” 80-90% of the people stopped have nothing illegal on them, but they are searched, and maybe seized, illegally. True, we can refuse to obey- so the courts say. But how many times have we read in the paper that the cop shot down the kid with a cell phone in his hand? When you know this could be you, then regardless of what your legal rights are, you’re faced with reality- When the cop says Stop, you stop. When they say, “Show me ID,” you show them ID. The reality is you do not have a choice.

The courts have changed the rules. There are hundreds of thousands of simple possession convictions due to individuals being stopped just this way. It supports the PIC. These stops are challengeable under the “Terry Stop” doctrine (“a brief detention of a person by police on “reasonable suspicion” of involvement in criminal activity but short of probable cause to arrest,” aka Stop and Frisk). But you have to have a trial and a pretrial suppression hearing with a skilled attorney who knows search and seizure law. It takes a year to fight it and the DA offers you 2 months time served so you don’t challenge the illegal stop. Unchallenged, it stands.

The PIC is in place to support large populations of blue collar workers that lost their jobs and can’t find new ones when manufacturing, steel, and coal jobs died in this country. We now use taxpayer money to disenfranchise a segment of the population, criminalize them, and in doing so create the largest “criminal justice” empire ever known.

I look forward to sharing the ways I know to fight the system from the inside and outside using simple and proven strategies, all of them legal and non-violent.

Sincerely,
Brian, Pennsylvania

Dear Black & Pink Family,

Hi people, all the way from down Texas way! I would like to cover two things if I may. The first one will be an update on my health advice, printed in the May 2013 issue of the Black & Pink Newspaper, pg 6 & 7. The next will be a Book Review, with includes a special guest- our very own Jason Lydon from B&P, who has a whole chapter.

First, an update. Since the May 2013 issue of B&P was sent out, the Texas prison system has changed their policies concerning their Peer Health Education Classes deemed necessary for all offenders within this system. Billy, that’s me, has interviewed many men after their second day of class, and mostly all of them voiced the same opinion- Texas has placed a guard in the classroom, making it next to impossible for it to be a “peer” health class. Many men will not say what’s on their minds or ask the questions they need answered since coming to prison. I know, I could not. It’s hard enough speaking in front of my peers, never mind a staff member, about fears, issues with a staff member, and

more topics that are hard to talk about but necessary.

They have tied the hands of the Educators even tighter. There’s certain issues they won’t even address, like 90% of what’s in the B&P article I wrote. When interviewing my anonymous friend, mentioned in that article, he sounds like a robot with his answer when I asked what he thought of a guard being placed in the class, and if it hindered the teaching. Other people gave the exact same reply, but I know the heart of a couple of these men, and I don’t think they are telling the full truth. However, it’s not their fault- they figure a little education is better than none. They put their faces out in the class for recognition, so if something does need asking they can be found other places on the unit. I commend them for that!

Now, if you’d like to have a say and voice your displeasure over this policy change, then here’s what I suggest, especially people in Texas. I wrote a letter to Jo Paget, she is a top cop for PREA (Prison Rape Elimination Act), her title is Enforcement Officer. Also I wrote a letter to Lisa Longly, Peer Education Supervisor. Tell them, “We need a Peer Health Education Class that works for us. Putting a guard in the classroom makes it hard for people to get the information they need to keep themselves healthy and safe. Let the Educators manage the class, take the guards out.” Tell them your concerns, and what you feel it does, or does not, allow for us to speak openly about. (For those incarcerated in Texas and there’s too much month at the end of your money, you can use a truck mail envelope.) Here are the addresses to write a letter:

Jo Paget, PREA Enforcement Officer, 1225 Ave G. Huntsville, TX 77340

Lisa Longly PO Box 99, Huntsville, TX 77342

Well family, I hope I’ve been helpful to each of you. Please be kind, I’ve come to believe respect, love and understanding is going to start with us. Someone has to light the way, why not us, we know what it looks like. My love to each.

Peace,
Billy, Texas

Hi friends of Black & Pink. I pray that my missive finds you all in the best of health and safe. I am well myself and looking forward to this year. The December ‘13 Newspaper was very informative and deep. I feel as though I have an extended family with you all.

I wanted to share with you why I am at this Supermax facility. On or about October of November 2006 a correctional officer caught me in a position to lock me in the office and force me to give him oral sex. I let it go at first, but he kept on me and I openly confronted him. Word got back, so to say, and an internal affairs investigation ensued. The investigator immediately retaliated on me and I was sent to the Supermax Administrative Segregation (A.S.). I was accused of having sex with several inmates. All this came out supposedly during the internal affairs investigation. I stayed on A.S. three years, and have been at this Supermax almost seven years now. In May 2012 they put a cell-mate in my cell to assault me and put me in the hospital for nine days. All the time telling me I made D.O.C. look bad by getting it out that an officer sexually assaulted me.

I just wanted to let you all know how I got to this facility. I read so many letters in the Newspaper about prison violence, it’s sickening.

Also, I go up for parole in March. I have to have all my information into the parole board a month in advance, so I have been working on that. I don’t have family support so I’ve been completing information on my own. Wish me luck :)

Well, you all stay blessed and safe. I hope to hear from you all soon.

Sincerely,
Johnny, Oklahoma

Black & Pink Family,

I want to let everyone know that I at one time and off and on in the last couple years have hid being gay, and I am finally done hiding. If people within this prison can’t accept me for who I am, they can move on, and that includes my family.

Through knowing that I have family that supports me 100%, I have found somebody within this place who I am in love with. This beautiful Queen is older than me, but age does not matter, it’s only an number. Love is something that comes from the heart. This is the first time I have fallen in love with a Queen, I have always been the one who was the Queen. This love is awesome, it’s true love.

In my 19 years being gay I have been in relationships (a couple of them serious) but not as serious as this. My beautiful Queen and I want the world to know we are in love. I thank you because this Newspaper and the stories gave me the courage to go and ask my Queen for a commitment and a relationship that is filled with love.

To all my family at Black & Pink, hold your head up and be proud of who you are. If others don’t accept you for who you are they are not true friends and family. Know that even if you are loved by few, and hated by many, you are still going to find people who will love you and you will know if it’s true love by how you are treated.

As I close, know you are loved by me as well as others like me. Love and take care of yourself, you come first.

Love Always,
Lewis, Kansas

LETTERS TO OUR FAMILY CONTINUED

Dear Black & Pink,

When I read Jason’s message about Transformative Justice in the Jan ‘14 Newspaper, all I could do was nod to myself because of my personal experience....

When I was seven years old I was molested. Outright brutal penetration. It left me with an inability to control my bowel movements because I couldn’t feel it coming or hold it back. My mother was too lost in drugs and men to give it much concern and my father was absent and I had no working memory of him.

Later that year my mother had abandoned my brother, sister, and me- ages 7, 8, and 9- in a park in Kentucky to run off with someone working in the carnival. Lucky for us, someone noticed us before anything else happened and we were shipped to children services. My father was notified and before long I was whisked away to a man I didn’t know, but was somehow to automatically love, as if that was possible.

My father’s house turned out to a house of absolute horror. First, he was in the military and living in a small base apartment with a wife and three children, so with me, my brother, and sister, that meant there was now 2 adults and 6 kids thrown together in a small military base apartment.

Both my stepmother and her unnaturally strong son zeroed in on me like how predators recognize wounded prey. The amount of beatings I received at the hands of those two over the years are too many to even try and count.

My stepmother had a bent that would shock most people. For example, instead of trying to find out why I couldn’t control my bowel movements, she would punish or humiliate me. I remember she would make me wear a diaper and stand in front of everyone while she had them mock me.

Despite how horrible she was to me the true horror came in the mask of my father. My father had been molesting my stepsister from the time she was at least 6 or 7 years old. His only interests when he was home was molesting girls or beating me and my stepbrother.

When I say he beat us, I mean he would “fight” us like we were grown men even though we were children and he was a 6’2”, 200 lb soldier. Using weapons was a mainstay of his. I’ve been beaten with 2X4 boards, kicked in the ribs and face with steel toed combat boots, and had hot coffee thrown in my face all by the time I was 10 years old.

To say that by the time I was 18, I was really messed up and dysfunctional with a distorted view of what was normal sexual behavior or what if any lines of conduct were, is to say the least an understatement.

Somewhere along the way I started transitioning from being the abused to becoming the abuser. I didn’t even realize it was happening.

When I was 18, I met a 10 year old boy and even though I had never thought of it before, I thought I was falling in love with him. Of course, me being 18 and him being 10, we were at two totally different stages sexually, but I didn’t see that. All I could see is that I loved him and therefore a relationship was OK.

I touched him once on the outside of his clothes and quickly saw from the look on his face that it was a grave mistake and I had just traumatized the person I loved.

Eventually I was arrested for a fondling charge and given a short time in prison.

The charge and in particular the prison experience showed me the absolute hatred and violence individuals and society has for anyone convicted of such a crime. Being as dysfunctional as I was with the distorted views I had, I internalized not that I shouldn’t do this, but instead that I had to go to whatever extreme I had to to protect my secret.

When I got out I met another 10 year old boy, this time he was gay. I used the fact that he was gay and curious to justify and rationalize what was my sexual abuse of him.

Eventually the inevitability of the cracks started showing and one day I had convinced myself that everything was falling apart and was going to be outed. I can’t really say at what exact point, but at some point I snapped and went into a mental state like severe dissociative disorder and while in this state I killed an innocent ten year old boy.

During my death penalty trial the first thing my attorney said in opening arguments was that he was sorry for representing me. I was found guilty and sentenced to die in the electric chair.

In 2001, six years after arriving on death row, sitting in my cell alone in the early morning hours reflecting on my life and my behavior I finally admitted to myself that “I AM WRONG.” I told myself that I had to accept responsibility for the things I’ve done and work to deconstruct all the bullshit I was filled with all my life. Deal with and overcome the abuse I suffered. That is was my responsibility to overcome my scars.

Knowing I would be executed I set out to transform myself into a good, non-abusive trustworthy person. For me personally Buddhism and the noble eightfold path gave me a blueprint to follow.

In 2010 my death sentence was changed to life without parole. After now almost thirteen years of personal growth, I’ve grown into a man I’m proud to be.

I’ve been beaten, violently sexually abused as a child, abandoned, caused great harm to others, vilified, faced execution, now with no hope of ever leaving prison sitting in a supermax cell in segregation. Why does it even matter, why should I bother growing? The answer is simple, I owe it to the people I’ve harmed, and to myself. I ask anyone who may be in a similar situation- Do you really want to die without creating any balance to all the wrong you’ve done?

Do you really want to die knowing in your own mind that your life is a series of masks of justification and rationalization for your bad behavior? Are you going to go to your grave using the fact that you were abused or a victim of oppression as an excuse for your harmful behavior? Fight the fight for sure, but you can’t use it as an excuse for why you’re not transforming yourself.

Remember one last thing- you don’t have to flip a switch and be grown, but you have to always be growing.

Peace, Your Brother,
Chris, Indiana

Chris’s story shows the terrible harm that happens to us. And the horrible harm we do to others. It shows the harm that prisons cause. It shows that prisons don’t prevent harm from happening. And Chris’s story shows our ability to transform, to change, to heal. Our work towards Abolition is a process of stopping prisons from simply punishing and harming us, and creating real justice- transformative justice- that works to actually prevent harm and promote healing when harm happens. -B&P Editors

Dear Black & Pink,

Hey family! This is Nikki Lynne down here in the great state of “Lock ‘em up an’ throw away the key.” Yep, Texas. Would you believe that a candidate for Governor actually had the nerve to say that as part of a campaign slogan! Let’s hope his butt loses the election! Well, I was reading my Newspaper last night and I was inspired to put up my nickel’s worth of jibbering.

I have been diligently pursuing treatment for GID since I’ve been here. My battle started in ‘99. When I was told “You ain’t a woman, boy, you’re just another faggot.” I didn’t give up. When Psych dropped my case in 2001 because “we don’t treat GID,” I didn’t give up. Last year I really started giving them hell. Part of the problem is Texas Law, but we’re gonna work on that. I just sent some paperwork out for the courts. We’ll see what happens next. I’m not gonna give up.

I finally got some very encouraging news from the Psych, here. He told me that the people at the top are pressuring them to “treat the problem.” Well the problem won’t be treated until my body matches my soul. When they give me the operation, and transfer me to a women’s unit, then I’ll be treated, but the battle won’t be over. The battle won’t be over until they close these doors. Stop lockin’ us up and throwin’ the keys away.

My point is, no matter what these people do or don’t do, we have a choice. We have a choice not to accept just anything, a choice to fight if necessary to achieve a goal for the greater good. I want to issue a challenge to all Trans people, in Texas and nationwide. I challenge you to stand up and fight. I challenge you to pressure the system into making us whole, and letting us go. If you don’t stand up, why should anyone else? File the paperwork, file the grievances, process the 1983’s, get in their faces. But don’t you ever give up. Make this the transgender battle cry. NEVER GIVE UP!!

I love you all.
Blessed Be,
Nikki Lynne, Texas

To My Dearest Black & Pink,

I’m a 20 year old Gay Boy, doing a 5 year sentence in the state of California. I received my first B&P issue, Feb 2014. I wanted to let all my family out there in the struggle know- you’re not alone, I’m there with you.

I been Gay since I was 12, but growing up around a family with gang violence, I couldn’t be myself. I was a gang member myself in the Hispanic community. I didn’t know how to by myself. I came to prison at 18 years old, I was a puppy and new to the system. I was forced to go to SNY (Sensitive Needs Yard) because I was gay and sooner or later my homeboys were going to find out. Coming to SNY I thought- Go for it, be yourself. Lately I been open about being gay ‘cause I realized I shouldn’t be ashamed of it and I should stand firm and proud of who I am.

But lately I’ve been struggling, Black & Pink. A lot of people hate me, simple fact ‘cause I’m Gay. I grew up in juvenile halls and camps fighting, so I know how to fight and I’ve been fighting a lot ‘cause I won’t allow someone to think just ‘cause I’m Gay I’m weak. Ever since I been fighting, CO’s been harassing me. I got so fed up with them that I messed one cop up and now I’m sitting in the Hole with a D.A. referral. I been stressed out and I cry all the time. See, I’m a 2 striker and I pray I don’t get washed up at 20. I want to say sometimes struggles out there is not worth it. If you take your fist to solve your problems, later you may regret it. Be strong and be patient, file paperwork and complaints. I don’t want to see none of my family in my shoes. Remember, we can be better than them. So plz, family stay strong, hang in there, you’re not alone in this struggle. Pray for me family like I pray for all of you. Stay you and strong.

With all my love to all my family in this struggle,
S, California
(Name and some details removed for legal reasons.)

Dear B&P,

I read Jason’s letter in the most recent Black and Pink and felt like it was directed specifically at me. Many people have heard of me and my case. I definitely hurt a lot of people when I was committing my crimes, even if I didn’t realize it at the time. I wish I could make it up to every one of my victims, but there is not way to undo what I did. That won’t stop me from trying to help improve the world in whatever ways I can though.

Every victim deserves the opportunity to get help so they don’t have to fight the battle alone. I did. My uncle molested me when I was little. It was a very confusing set of experiences that I shouldn’t have had to deal with by myself. But I wasn’t strong enough to tell, so nobody knew until another of

his victims came forward ten years later. By then I was used to keeping it buried and refused to talk about the abuse beyond acknowledging that it had happened. The detective and my parents begged me to talk to a counselor, but I refused. It had been too long.

Here’s my point- when you do something that hurts another person, take responsibility. Yes, it’s scary... [But] don’t hold back someone else’s healing due to your fear. Seek help and allow them to do the same, please.

Thank you,
Josh, Idaho

STRUGGLING FOR RIGHTS!
DEE FARMER WON A LANDMARK SUPREME COURT CASE ON INMATE RIGHTS. BUT THAT’S NOT THE HALF OF IT
PART 2 BY ALISON FLOWERS

Part 1 provide as overview of the landmark US Supreme Court Case, Farmer v. Brennan, background on Farmer’s life growing up in Baltimore, Maryland, and her experience being housed in a male prison. After being moved to another male prison, Farmer was assaulted by another prisoner and reported the assault. Without being represented by an attorney, she chose to file a federal suit in 1991, bringing charges against prison officials. Her case was initially dismissed, and her subsequent appeal denied. Lawyers from the ACLU helped after she petitioned the US Supreme Court. **Part 2:**

“At that time, the understanding of gay and bisexual and transgender was just so limited compared to where we are now,” notes Farmer.

But the attorney’s semantic choice was more strategic than sensitive. Using the feminine pronoun permitted Alexander to emphasize that prison officials never would have placed a woman among a violent male population.

“Once she was left in that cell, it’s not at all surprising that the assault happened,” Alexander says today. “Treating prison rape as a joke was far more ingrained in the culture then.”

On the other side, the attorneys for the United States used “he.”

In delivering the court’s unanimous opinion, then Justice David H. Souter performed grammatical gymnastics and avoided using either pronoun in referring to Farmer. (Souter declined to comment for this story.) The moderate-turned-liberal Justice Harry Blackmun, in his concurring opinion, employed the masculine pronoun.

Alexander says the decision marked only the second time the nation’s highest court addressed the issue of prison rape.

Writing at a time when the escalating incidence of HIV and AIDS in prisons raised the gallows for victims of sexual assault, Souter asserted that “having stripped [inmates] of virtually every means of self-protection and foreclosed their access to outside aid, the government and its officials are not free to let the state of nature take its course.” Souter, whom George H.W. Bush had appointed four years prior, went on to condemn the specter of “gratuitously allowing the beating or rape of one prisoner by another.”

Farmer built on two previous Supreme Court decisions, Estelle v. Gamble and Wilson v. Seiter (the latter of which Alexander also argued). Besides reaffirming the rights of the incarcerated, the 1994 ruling’s main impact was to address how prison officials can be liable for harm suffered under their watch, and, more specifically, the concept of “deliberate indifference.”

As an attorney who advocates for prisoners’ rights, Alexander says, she has mixed feelings about Farmer’s intentionally narrow scope. “It’s a really tough standard,” she says. Though the court’s findings may have encouraged corrections officials to “hear no evil” in order to avoid liability, “It’s a case in which prisoners can sometimes win.”

Within three months of the decision, Farmer had been cited in about three dozen cases nationwide. To this day, the ruling serves as a user’s manual for jailhouse lawyers to argue constitutional violations behind bars, defining complex legal terms like “subjective recklessness” and mapping out what it takes to prevail. In addition, Farmer helped spawn Congress’s Prison Rape Elimination Act of 2003.

The Bureau of Justice Statistics reported in 2012 that nearly 10 percent of former inmates in prisons, jails, and other adult correctional facilities had been sexually abused. Another BJS survey released this month shows allegations of sexual victimization in prisons, jails, and other adult correctional facilities have increased every year between 2005 and 2011.

“There is no aspect of our criminal justice system that says part of your sentence is to be sexually abused, and Farmer was the first place where that was said with authority,” says Chris Daley, deputy executive director for Just Detention International, a human-rights organization that seeks to end sexual abuse in all forms of incarceration.

Farmer’s ordeal also served as a cautionary tale of sorts: In the two decades since the ruling, a handful of jurisdictions have begun using women’s facilities to house transgender inmates who identify as female.

Yet the majority of correctional facilities follow no such practice, placing prisoners according to their biological sex. Farmer herself was always incarcerated with men.

“She’s a character,” says Wisconsin attorney Michael Gonring, who represented Farmer after her case was remanded and denied again by the lower court. “A classic.”

Though Farmer has racked up more than a dozen convictions related to fraud, theft, and sundry other dishonest acts, the career criminal likely could have been a career lawyer.

For decades, Farmer has operated a de facto legal practice behind bars. When Gonring met her in the mid-1990s, she had 13 lawsuits going

simultaneously. A recent search of her name as a party in a federal court database yielded 122 results, including 88 civil cases and 27 appeals. She also kept state courts busy. A former clerk for the Maryland Attorney General’s Office remembers crates upon crates of files devoted to her.

Most often, the crux of Farmer’s complaints concerns her own physical well-being. She fought the Federal Bureau of Prisons over hormone therapy, eventually losing on the grounds that the treatments exacerbated her AIDS, which had developed from her HIV.

“The vast majority of transgender people who are incarcerated are either completely locked out of transition-related care or have to fight for even the most basic care,” observes Daley. “The fact that Dee stood up for herself and said that this is a basic medical right — she was one of a handful of people across the country who were fighting this.”

One federal appeals court decision from 1993 casts Farmer as a seasoned veteran of the legal process: “Besides being an experienced litigator, Farmer has a history of fraud, arguing the possession of an intelligence superior to that of a criminal who relies on brawn rather than brains. The transcript of the trial discloses a shrewd cross-examination by Farmer of one of the defendants on the issue of forgery, bringing out all the contradictions and implausibilities in that defendant’s testimony,” reads the decision, authored by famed judge and legal theorist Richard Posner. Farmer lost her appeal.

<http://www.villagevoice.com/2014-01-29/news/dee-farmer-v-brennan-prison-rape-elimination-act-transgender-lgbt-inmate-rights/>

ANGELA DAVIS ON PRISON ABOLITION, THE WAR ON DRUGS AND WHY SOCIAL MOVEMENTS SHOULDN’T WAIT ON OBAMA
ORIGINALLY PUBLISHED ON DEMOCRACY NOW

Angela Davis spoke with Democracy Now’s Amy Goodman and González on March, 6th. Here are excerpts from her responses on several topics.

ON PROGRESS: “I think it’s very important to point out that people have been struggling over these issues for years and for decades. This is also a problematic moment. And those of us who identify as prison abolitionists, as opposed to prison reformers, make the point that oftentimes reforms create situations where mass incarceration becomes even more entrenched; and so, therefore, we have to think about what in the long run will produce decarceration, fewer people behind bars, and hopefully, eventually, in the future, the possibility of imagining a landscape without prisons, where other means are used to address issues of harm, where social problems, such as illiteracy and poverty, do not lead vast numbers of people along a trajectory that leads to prison.”

ON ABOLITION VERSUS REFORM: “In 1977, when the Attica rebellion took place, that was a really important moment in the history of mass incarceration, the history of the prison in this country. However, in the 1980s, with the dismantling of social services, structural adjustment in the Global South, the rise of global capitalism, we began to see the prison emerging as a major institution to address the problems that were produced by the deindustrialization, lack of jobs, less funding into education, lack of education, the closedown of systems that were designed to assist people who had mental and emotional problems. And now, of course, the prison system is also a psychiatric facility...So, the question is: How does one address the needs of prisoners by instituting reforms that are not going to create a stronger prison system?”

ON SHIFTING PUBLIC OPINIONS: “Oftentimes when these new moments emerge, it is as if the legislators have come up with this idea for the very first time. And, of course, it is important that decriminalization is happening in certain states, because drugs have served—the so-called war on drugs, which, as we know, has been a war on poor communities, black and Latino communities, all over the country—that so-called war on drugs has been the major motor driving the rising prison population.”

ON FOR-PROFIT PRISONS: “Even public prisons rely on private corporations. And healthcare has been outsourced. Food production has been outsourced. The few programs that there are in prisons have been outsourced. So there is a privatization of imprisonment such that it’s not possible to consider the issue of mass incarceration without looking at the important role it plays in the economy.”

ON ABOLITION AND FEMINISM: “One can see the way the system functions a lot more clearly by looking at the convergence, for example, of institutional violence and intimate violence. Also, looking at the particular situation of trans prisoners not only allows us to recognize that this is a group that is perhaps more criminalized than any other group—trans people are arrested and imprisoned more frequently than any other group in society—it allows us to see the role that the prison system as a whole plays in upholding the binary notions of gender in the larger society.”

ON WOMEN IN PRISON: “I like to point out that violence against women, which is the most pandemic form of violence in the world—I mean, we talk about police violence, we talk about—when we talk about racist violence, we think about street violence, Trayvon Martin and so forth, and that’s absolutely important to recognize, but at the same time, the violence that happens in relationships is connected with that street violence, institutional violence and intimate violence.”

ON HAVING HOPE: “Well, I think—I always find hope in struggle. I find hope in younger generations... I think we have to act as if there is hope.”

http://www.democracynow.org/2014/3/6/angela_davis_on_prison_abolition_the

DIAMOND IN THE ROUGH

I am a diamond in the rough
amongst a beach full of sand.
A unique and precious gemstone,
yearning to be held by caring hands.
Be careful not to drop me,
once you’re found and picked me up.
For I am a delicate find,
although my looks are a little rough.
Treat me like a special present,
a priceless gift to yourself.
Claim me with extreme pride,
like a trophy or award on the shelf.
I’m not to be used or abused,
or given away for your own needs.
For I am one of a kind,
and can’t be counted like seeds.
So take care of me,
Because I am more than enough.
I retain my radiant presence,
for I am that diamond in the rough.

Justin “Sincere,” Pennsylvania

LIVING GRAVE

Agg Life
Young Life
Filled with struggles
and strife.
 Filled with wants
 and needs.
 Filled with hurts
 wounds that bleed.
Filled with desires
and dreams.
 All out of reach.
 Barred by concrete walls,
 iron bars and doors,
 and steel beams.
Chances and opportunities
stolen by a young mistake.
Political figures,
uncaring of what’s at stake.
 Lock him up!
 Never let him out.
 He’s a grave danger,
 of that do not doubt.
So, without knowing anything
about the young man,
except the bad decision he made.
They chose to incarcerate him.
As quickly and as long as they could.

So, as he sits in his boxed, living grave,
he wonders if he will ever be saved...

Chris Lee, Texas



“Queer Love” by Sebastian Raskop, used under CC BY / Crooped from original



Photo by Nicky Rowbottom, used under CC BY / cropped from original

DEY DON’T UNDERSTAND

Me being a lesbian, I’m still only human,
But it seems the longer I live, the more I cause confusion.
I just wanna be happy, because with men I can’t,
Why dey don’t understand being straight is something I ain’t.
I’m flaw, I’mma liar, am disloyal because of Gay Pride,
But being myself openly is someone I can’t hide.
Damn, help me understand why dey don’t understand,
Is it because I’m born female wanting to be a man?
Mostly everybody say they’re not judgmental,
But that’s a lie, listen to selective words coming from their mental.
I get on my knees and pray to the same God they worship everyday,
Dey sin too, but is my sin greater because I’m gay?
In the Bible even God say prostitutes will make it to heaven before dey will,
But with that being said, Dey still don’t understand how I feel.
Will committing suicide make dem feel any better?
Hell nawl, because the only thing dey’ll remember is that me & a female was together.

\$coory, Florida

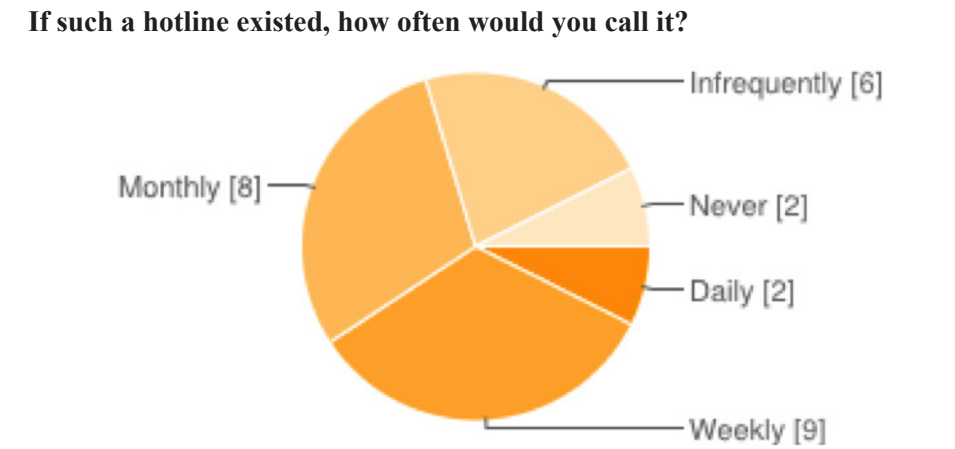
I’M COMING OUT

I’m coming out, scared
not knowing what to expect.
I walk down the tier
& I’m running with sweat.
Remembering what Black & Pink said
I’m not alone
Stand strong & proud
‘cause I’m coming out.
I got a tear coming from my eye
‘cause they call me these hateful names
(Faggot, Weirdo, Creep)
But I’m still coming out.
I walk the yard alone
But in reality I’m not alone
‘cause Black & Pink said.
Now I’m in the Hole
Sitting in my bunk, crying
‘cause they said I’m gay
But I’m coming out.
I’m strong & I know it
‘cause Black & Pink said.
“Facing a lot of time to do”
is what the guard said
and I told him- I’m coming out.
I don’t care what you say
I’m fighting this battle alone
But we’re in this war together
So I’m coming out.

I love you Black & Pink

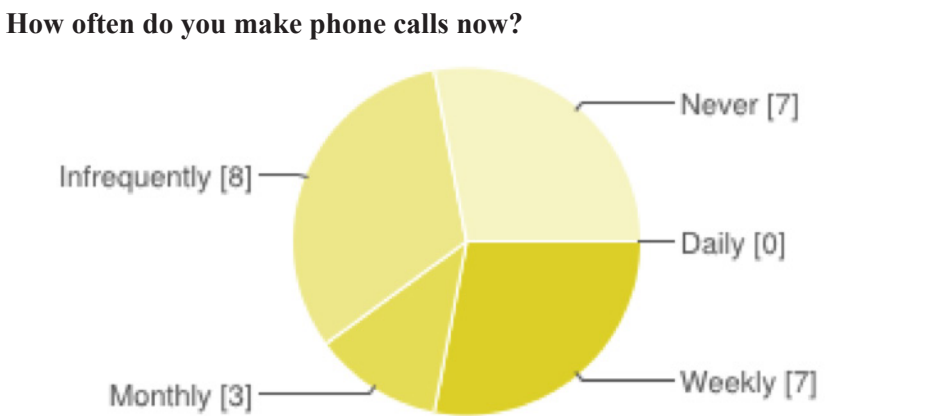
Louie aka Sidewayz, California

September Newspaper Feedback: Proposed Hotline / Black & Pink Phone Number
Reminder: Black and Pink is (still) considering starting a hotline that LGBTQ people in prison can call to connect with volunteers who can provide supportive listening and resource referrals.



What hours would you be able the call the hotline?
Most people would be able to call almost the entire day.

How much does it cost you to make phone calls?
Ranges from very expensive to not-so-expensive. Prices usually increase for out-of-state calls
Sample responses:
-up to \$3.50/minute
-66 cents/minute
-23 cents/minute (this was the most frequent answer)
-10 cents/minute
-nothing: paid for by receiving party



Who do you call when you make phone calls now?
Most people call their family members and friends.

If you would call the hotline, what would you be looking for?
Some responses: “Ways to actually make positive changes in the prison system/courts. Legal assistance!!!” “emotional support and factual info” “For a friend to call and talk to about issues I have” “Support for sexual harassment and abuse” “Info on how I can be of service to Black and Pink” “A positive mentor/friend that I can be myself with and express myself freely” “Someone to help ease my pain” “Someone to just listen to me” “Communication with the B&P fam!”

In what ways would the hotline be useful and important to you?
Some Responses: “It will allow me to exchange ideas with others to help with our mental, spiritual growth and development.” “To have a chance to connect; a number to inquire information from; to have someone who is LGBTQ to talk to.” “As convicted and incarcerated folks it appears to me that the MOST needed item by all, is legal assistance and intervention.” “It would be nice to have the ability to report all abuse physical, mental/psychological, procedural, sexual by staff and other prisoners, and have something actually be done about it by supervisors and courts.” “It would be important to me because I’ll know my family and friends are talking to someone.”

FEEDBACK UPDATES CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

ON THE INSIDE ARTWORK FORM

Black & Pink is facilitating the revival of the art program in a new way, called On the Inside! If you are an artist, here’s how it will work. Create any artwork that you would like (drawings, cards, paintings). Some of the artwork will be accepted for an upcoming exhibit; the artist will be promptly compensated \$50 for all accepted artwork (except \$10 for cards) and postage expenses incurred. Any artwork that isn’t accepted for the exhibit for any reason will be promptly returned to the artist, or other address. If your artwork is accepted for the Exhibition, you assign all right, title and interest in the work to us (in other words you transfer ownership of the art and its copyrights to the Exhibit coordinators) as consideration for participation in the show. The artwork will never be resold, and will likely be donated to an LGBTQ Archive in years to come. **Please do not write your name and number anywhere on the front of the artwork to protect your privacy. We are all excited to see what you create! Please fill out a questions 1 through 6 once, and questions 7 through 10 on separate slip like this for each piece of artwork you submit. Please mail the artwork with the information below on slips to: On the Inside, PO Box 173, 2658 Griffith Park Blvd. , Los Angeles, CA 90039**

- 1)Your preferred name for the exhibit.
2)Your gender pronouns (eg. she / he / xe / they).
3)How do you identify? (Optional: gender, sexuality, race, age).
4)Your legal name, number, and mailing address.
5)If my artwork is not accepted for the exhibit:
__ Send it to my address (please list)
__ Send it to another address (please list)
__ Black & Pink can keep and display it
6)Preferred method of compensation:
__ Donation into commissary account (Please include deposit slips or instructions):
__ Magazines/books (Details)
__ Other:
7)Title of artwork (for display at exhibit).
8)Description of artwork (for display at exhibit).
9)Anything else you’d like the exhibit curator to know about the artwork or about yourself which can be shared / feel free to write on another page, and please note that the exhibit curator is not able to be a penpal):
- 10) I, _____ (Name), give On the Inside permission for my artwork to be exhibited in person, press, catalogues, internet, etc. Sign: _____ Date: _____

BLACK & PINK INCARCERATED FAMILY FEEDBACK!

-----rip slip here-----

We have made changes, and will be making some more, based on your Feedback about the Newspaper from Summer 2013. What do you think of our Guidelines for creating and editing the B&P Newspaper? What would you change? Anything to add?

Names of prisons, staff, other inmates: We have been removing references to the names of other people in prison, for their confidentiality. We have been removing the specific name of the prison people reference, to maintain their confidentiality. We have at times withheld the names of staff referenced in a piece, when it is not clear that the author is intending to create a confrontation that may include retaliation.

Printing Full Names/addresses: People often sign their full name and/or request the printing of their full name/address with their piece. We have been only printing first names and states. We do this to provide some confidentiality. People don’t always know or understand what it means to have their piece published on the internet, so they may not understand that they are searchable and ‘out’ to everyone with an internet connection. Also, this helps avoid “promoting inmate to inmate communication,” which gets the newspaper banned from some prisons.

Desperation and Hope: Prison is intense. The mood of pieces ranges from suicidal to bliss. We aim for including a balance of upbeat and despairing submissions.

Relationship advice: Some people write in asking for or giving relationship advice. We more often print personal and general thoughts and reflections on relationships, and usually do not print requests or advice about what individual people should do in specific situations.

Swears: We take out some swear words to prevent Newspaper rejection, while trying to keep the tone/message of the author.

Requests for money: We have not published requests for money.

Regular columnists: A few people have requested regular columns, we have not done this yet. We would need to consider if the guidelines for control of editing are the same.

Section Notes:

Poetry: 5-6 Poems (compromise- some people like more, some people want less.)

Transgender Voices: Based on what we receive.

Artwork: Based on what we receive.

Printing Penpal Form: Quarterly: Jan, April, July, October

Printing Purpose/Analysis: Quarterly: March, June, Sept, December

Jason’s Message: Monthly.

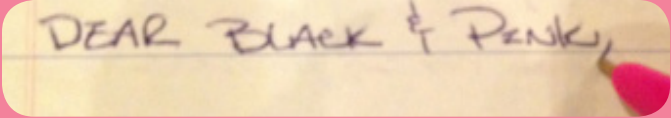
FAMILY FEEDBACK SUMMARY UPDATES CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

November Newspaper Feedback: Leadership Circle Changes

Do you agree with the proposed leadership changes (pages 1 and 2 of the November issue) ?

ADDRESSES: PLEASE NOTE OUR NEW ADDRESSES FOR MAIL!

Please Note: You can send multiple requests/topics in one envelope! Due to concerns about consent and confidentiality, you cannot sign up other people for the newspaper. However, we can accept requests from multiple people in the same envelope. There’s no need to send separate requests in more than one envelope. If you are being released and would still like to receive a copy of the newspaper, please let us know the address we can send the newspaper to!

	Black & Pink - _____ 614 Columbia Rd Dorchester, MA 02125
If you would like to request:	please write one or more of these topics in the top line of the address:
Newspaper Subscriptions, Pen-Pal Program, Address Change, Request Erotica, Religious Support & Volunteering (Send thank you cards to donors, etc.)	Black & Pink - General
Newspaper Submissions- Stories, Articles, Poems & Art	Black & Pink - Newspaper Submissions
Black & Pink Organization Feedback- Especially the slip on Page 7	Black & Pink - Feedback
Advocacy Requests- Include details about situation and thoughts about how calls or letters might help	Black & Pink - Advocacy
Submit to Erotica Zine	Black & Pink - HOT PINK
Stop Your Newspaper Subscription	Black & Pink – STOP Subscription

Pen Pal Program: LGBTQ prisoners can list their information and short non-sexual ad on the internet where free world people can see it and decide to write. There will be a Pen-Pal Request Form in the Newspaper every 4 months.

Mail: We are several months behind in our mail. There will be a delay before we can open your letter, but keep writing!

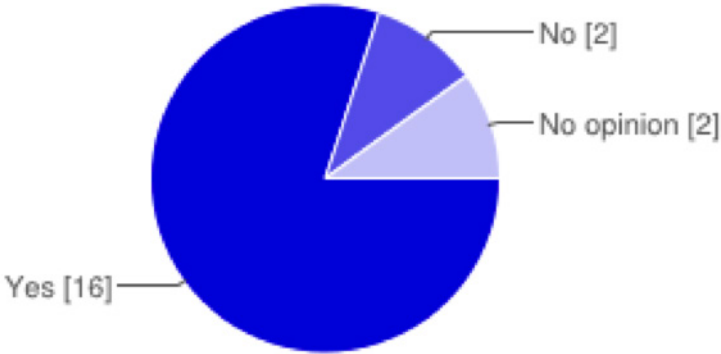
LEGAL: Consider writing to Lambda Legal for support or referrals with legal issues that you are having. “Lambda Legal is a national organization committed to achieving full recognition of the civil rights of lesbians, gay men, bisexuals, transgender people and those with HIV through impact litigation, education and public policy work.” Lambda Legal, National Office 120 Wall Street, Suite 1500, New York, NY 10005, 212-809-8585

Assistance with legal research for everyone, and preparing for disciplinary and parole hearings *only* for people in Massachusetts.

Hotline (9am-5pm EST): 617-495-3127 By mail: Prison Legal Assistance Project, 6 Everett Street, Suite 5107, Harvard Law School, Cambridge, MA 02138

Another resource to turn to, if you can afford the subscription (\$30 yearly, payable with new stamps), is Prison Legal News. This resource was co-started by a former gay prisoner and Men Against Sexism organizer, Ed Mead, though now it is run by Paul Wright. You can reach them by writing to: Prison Legal News, P.O. Box 1151 Lake Worth, FL 33460 (561) 360-2523

SURVIVORS: Just Detention International provides support for prisoners who are survivors of sexual abuse. Write them at the legal address below for a packet. Each packet includes an introductory letter, a list of local resources, fact sheets, publications about recovery from sexual abuse, and a letter of hope from another survivor. Cynthia Totten, Esp Just Detention International, 3325 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 340, Los Angeles, CA 90010



Some Responses:

“Yes and No. I understand the communication barrier these walls represent. The phone calls are especially expensive. And mail gets backed up and takes time to sort and read. One option is operating through JPay.com. Some states, including WA, have the JPay system as a Format for communicating with Family/Friends through email, electronic money wiring, etc. The main ingredient for [a successful movement] is family, community participation. Perhaps the lawful introduction of a disclaimer, so that B&P can confer with Family and Friends of the incarcerated individual, would be a another step in the right direction? Social Media outlets are not yet available to most prisoners. But where there’s a will, there’s a way.”

“An idea: In each prison (where possible) a group of B&P family could form an Incarcerated Leadership Circle. Then as one voice they can give their opinion on issues along with the general feedback using surveys, etc. This would give everyone an equal voice”

“We must not forget that [the Free World Leadership Circle] amongst many others have done a substantial amount for our family and our progresses with the newsletter, our networking, and our collective growth... Although we’re still trying to organize as one body with the same moves like a fluid... it takes time. We’ll get it right. I dont see what a problem in allowing those family allies who are on the free side to take majority control- it is them after all who does the negotiating that we can’t do in here to bring further fruition to our goals. Surely our inputs/outputs matter to our free world allies. Its aims has been to uplift US, unite US, aid US in OUR times of need...So, I don’t think the changes are bad/limiting/unfair, I think they are changes needed to test our growths and see how much more we can grow together.”

“I agree that coordinating between so many prisons, states and all other obstacles is a strong-hold for B&P, and I trust in all of y’alls decisions concerning Leadership - I ‘vote’ to keep asking us for input and feedback.”

“It would be beneficial across the board to form an advisory committee composed of prisoners/former prisoners who have the experience of dealing with prison specific issues”

“In one aspect, absolutely. I seen the inclusiveness in deciding the direction of the paper as a monumental honor and privilege, but the thing that saddens me and still do is a very small fraction of readers took the time to submit the forms back.”